

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 25 MAY 2004

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Applicant's or agent's file reference #433PC2-PJD	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001436	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 30 October 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 31 October 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ F16K 31/18, 31/34, 21/18, 31/20, 24/00, 24/02, 17/02 B67D 5/34		
Applicant MULTIFLO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|------|---|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 20 February 2004	Date of completion of the report 12 May 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer G.B. NATH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2126

Basis of the report

With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☐ the international application as originally filed.☒ the description, pages 1-7 , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on with the letter of

☒ the claims, pages 9 , as originally filed,

pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages 8, received on 1 April 2004 with the letter of 30 March 2004

☒ the drawings, pages 1/6-6/6 , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on with the letter of

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages☐ the claims, Nos.☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001436

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims None	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-10	YES
	Claims None	NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents:

JP 10-238429 A (OM KOGYO KK), 8 September 1998

JP 10-213260 A (NOK CORP), 11 August 1998

US 5095937 A (LeBLANC et al.), 17 March 1992

US 5842500 A (ROCKWOOD et al), 1 December 1998

US 6311723 B1 (SHIPP et al), 6 November 2001

2.1 Novelty (N) and Inventive Step(IS):

None of the documents cited in the International Search Report or any combination of them can be considered to anticipate the invention as defined in claims 1-10. The cited documents describe only the general state of the art, which is not considered to be of particular relevance to the invention.

Therefore, the claims are considered to meet the criteria of Novelty, Inventive Step.

2.2 All the claims conform to the criteria of Industrial Applicability

CLAIMS:

1. A valve assembly able to be mounted with a liquid container, the valve assembly comprising:
 - a housing having a passageway that extends through the housing;
 - a breather float valve mounted within the housing, the breather float valve movable between an open position to allow gas to pass through the passageway and a closed position that prevents liquid from passing through the passageway;
 - an liquid inlet, forming part of the housing, the liquid inlet allowing fluid to pass into the housing; and
 - an inlet float valve mounted within the housing, the inlet float valve movable between an open position that permits the flow of liquid through the liquid inlet and a closed position that prevents the flow of liquid through the liquid inlet.
2. The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the valve assembly includes a relief valve that is movable between an open position and a closed position to allow pressure to be relieved from the container.
3. The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the housing is cylindrical.
4. The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein inlet float valve includes a float and a stem.
5. The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein a valve seal is located adjacent the end of the stem.
6. The valve assembly of claim 5 wherein a fuel chamber is located adjacent the liquid inlet in which fuel is passed.
7. The valve assembly of claim 6 wherein a shelter is provided within the fuel chamber in which an end of the stem is located when the float valve assembly is in the open position.
8. The valve assembly of claim 1 wherein the breather float valve includes a rod and breather float.
9. The valves assembly of claim 8 wherein a spring engages the